

# The Weinhold affair: A case of double murder

PANORAMA DDR

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## **Flowers for a murderer**

The murderer Weinhold who insidiously shot two members of the GDR's frontier force from behind in an armed border incident has been acquitted in the Federal Republic of Germany. This verdict has caused alarm and indignation, even among those present in the court-room in Essen as spectators or observers. The public outcry has been especially great in the GDR.

What is the background to all this? Two non-commissioned officers, Jürgen Lange and Klaus-Peter Seidel, were killed in dastardly fashion by a deserter named Weinhold. The Prosecutor General of the GDR asked for the killer to be extradited but this request was turned down by the authorities in the Federal Republic. The substantial evidence about this premeditated murder made available by the GDR was ignored by the court in returning its verdict, this being in flagrant contradiction to accepted legal standards. The double murder, although clearly established, was construed as an "act of self-defence" and the killer was able to leave the court-room a free man, carrying a large bouquet of flowers. The cost of the trial is borne by the state. What is more, the criminal will receive 15,000 marks in "damages", i.e. a government bonus in recognition of his "heroic act" against the GDR.

What some people refused to deem possible has now become reality: The Weinhold double murder case has been used by a West German court to demonstrate that the General Relations Treaty is no more than a scrap of paper when it comes to underlining the anti-GDR stance of the Federal Republic. Revanchism there is once again to be legally sanctioned by a court ruling.

The judgment passed is no more than a political act in legal disguise. The sentence is an appeal to disregard the frontier of the GDR, to stage provocations against it and to murder GDR border guards with impunity. This is not just a monstrosity concocted by some ultra-rightist fanatic. It is the sentence of a court legalizing such aggressive adventurism against the GDR's frontier and frontier guards for all those in the Federal Republic. The verdict is an incitement to new border incidents and killings.

There are signs that some West Germans have mixed feelings about embarking on such a dangerous road. Even the public prosecutor found this was going too far and therefore lodged an appeal. Some press comments also reflect a feeling of uneasiness. The daily Frankfurter Rundschau wrote that Weinhold "could only get away with it because the court advanced arguments that rested on weak premises" adding that "the judges in Essen seem to have sensed the incredible implications of their fundamental attitude towards the other German state". The paper said that their juridical constructions "are no paragons of logic but rather signs of uncertainty" and that "no one could imagine English or French judges returning a similar verdict".

Unquestionably, the sentence betrays uncertainty in the legal domain and its "logic" is of a political nature. It is an aggressive revanchist logic that is inconsistent with international law. The judgment passed is an open commitment to a reactionary system.

re style being reminiscent of Nazi Judges. It furnishes drastic evidence of the extent to which the reactionary forces pledged to revanchism, anti-communism and neo-Nazism are once again gaining ground in the Federal Republic.

Events such as the acquittal of the double murderer Weinhold have political consequences. They are directed against the normalization of relations between the two German states. There can be no progress in the normalization of relations if revanchism continues unchecked. Let us hope that the appeal lodged by the prosecutor will have a sobering effect so that not even more damage is caused.

Dr. K.

**From Neues Deutschland, organ of the SED Central Committee,  
4-5 December 1976**

## A murderer extolled

Not all soldiers are to be treated in the same manner. GDR frontier guards may be shot and killed according to the verdict of the Essen court. The officer of the West German frontier force who shot and killed our captain Rudi Arnstadt in 1962 was promoted. The criminal Weinhold who murdered our comrades Klaus-Peter Seidel and Jürgen Lange is, according to the Essen court, a man of honour. The proceedings tell their own tale.

Weinhold is a criminal with several previous convictions, obsessed and consumed by a deep hatred against socialism because socialism means humanism and freedom and prosperity. This Weinhold wanted to get where the likes of him can be sure of receiving the understanding, advancement and protection of politicians and policemen, judges and journalists.

For this purpose he armed and supplied himself with ammunition and to prove his criminal intent shot the two frontier guards in the back. This was dastardly. Premeditation and foul play are criteria for murder and not for manslaughter. There was no exchange of shots. The weapons of the two victims were secured and had not been used since their last cleaning.

Additional facts: according to international law criminals are

tradited to and sentenced where they have committed their crimes. The German Democratic Republic without hesitation surrendered the warrant officer of the West German Bundeswehr Hans-Jürgen Reinhardt, who had committed a crime of violence against the Federal Republic and thought that he could, while still in possession of arms, save himself by changing over to our side.

**GDR television commentary by Karl-Eduard von Schnitzler**

## **The murderers in their midst**

The Essen verdict, when stripped of all its bombast, has one brutal significance: whoever is against socialism, whoever hates it to the extent that he is prepared to commit two murders is near and dear to us. Even if he has a long criminal record.

The verdict is characteristic of a system calling for new murders to be committed as a result of this acquittal. It unmasks a deeply corrupt society which boasts of the rule of law but is always ready to spit on treaties and international law. Thus already done by the later Reich Court Judge Jörns who, during the Weimar Republic imposed a piffling sentence on the murderers of Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg; thus being done by the court at Düsseldorf which by using hairsplitting tactics is dragging the proceedings against the SS murderers of Maidanek out for as long as possible in order to "impose" a minimal sentence or none at all on the accused.

The Essen verdict not only fails to punish a double murderer but even rewards him with lush "compensation for having been detained". And "Bild", one of the most strident voices in the cold war, is already providing further suggestions: "Welfare provisions for him (i.e. the double murderer Weinhold) must not cease after



he has received a few marks in compensation for his detention . . .  
the government must assist him in obtaining a job and a flat.”  
This is by no means impossible in that kind of state.

**Commentary by Kurt Wolterstädt in the Berliner Zeitung am  
Abend (BZA)**

## **Murderer acquitted by West German court**

Werner Weinhold, who murdered two members of the GDR's frontier force, Klaus-Peter Seidel and Jürgen Lange, was acquitted in the Federal Republic on 2 December 1976. Beringer, the presiding judge, justified this scandalous acquittal with anti-communist tirades against the German Democratic Republic and its frontier force. The requests for extradition by the GDR's Prosecutor General were refused by the use of threadbare arguments and by disregarding the accepted norms of international legal practice.

The Essen court, which usurped jurisdiction in this case in contravention of international law, had already released this double murderer once six months ago. The judgement now handed down is but the final link in a long chain of aiding and abetting this murderer.

In his opinion, the judge stated that it had not been ascertained with the "necessary certainty" that the death of the two GDR frontier guards had been due to "culpable acts" on the part of the accused. Only the "factual findings of attempted manslaughter" had been established "objectively". Weinhold had no more gentle method available than using his firearm. The court even confirmed for the benefit of this murderer that the use of firearms

ad been "appropriate and permissible" in this frontier incident. Therefore, the court concluded, Weinhold had "not put himself in the wrong" when stealing a firearm, ammunition and three motor cars prior to committing the two murders.

The court glossed over everything which had been established beyond doubt during the proceedings and by way of documents and the evidence of experts when handing down its so-called verdict.

Of course, the judge had no option but to admit that the murderer had fired shots on the border until "he had emptied the magazine and until the other party had no longer reacted", but the court saw no crime in that. Weinhold had merely established his "freedom of movement" with this frontier incident and the two murders.

The judge, in his remarks, very largely followed the lying evidence of the criminal Weinhold and his lawyers who had indulged in vile invective against the GDR authorities which had conducted the investigations into this matter. Judge Beringer cast doubt upon the truthfulness of the documentary evidence submitted by the competent authorities in the GDR in support of the application for extradition lodged with the legal authorities of the Federal Republic of Germany. In so doing he used cold war vocabulary and even went so far as to claim that West German criminal law did not exist for the purpose of showing respect for the frontier existing between the GDR and the Federal Republic. With this, the West German court, basing itself on a clearly revanchist position, has declared that criminal attacks and violent provocations against the GDR's frontier can be conducted with impunity as far as the Federal Republic of Germany is concerned.

Without any sign of remorse the murderer related the careful

preparation and execution of his bloody crime during the court proceedings at Essen. He admitted his previous criminal record.

As regards the attack on the state border, Weinhold stated that he had had to "arm himself heavily". He further stated that he utilized his temporary army service for the purpose of stealing a submachinegun and 360 rounds of ammunition from a unit of the National People's Army. He also boasted that he had forced three garages in order to obtain vehicles he could use to make good his escape.

The prosecutor at the Essen court, Ernst Schlanstein, had come to the conclusion on 29 November 1976 in his plea at the end of the hearing that Weinhold had implemented a "long-cherished plan" to break through the frontier "by all means at his disposal". In Schlanstein's opinion Weinhold had organized his plan "like a military operation" fully intending "to break possible resistance by armed force". Eduard Hesse, a ballistics expert attached to the Federal Criminal Investigation Department at Düsseldorf stated in his evidence that the cartridge cases found at the scene of the crime and submitted by the GDR authorities to the legal authorities of the Federal Republic had been fired from Weinhold's weapon. How unscrupulously the murderer had acted is particularly evidenced by the fact that he shot (and killed) his victims into the back or the side.

During the preliminary proceedings against Weinhold the GDR's Prosecutor General had already demanded the extradition of the criminal on 21 December 1975 and again on 23 January 1976. This is in line with international practice in terms of which sovereign countries have the right to hand down punishment for a crime in the territory on which it was committed. The warrant for the arrest of Weinhold and the death certificates of his

ctims, plus other evidence were submitted together with the demand for his extradition, this being refused by the West German authorities.

The Essen prosecutor, who had proposed ten-and-a-half years' imprisonment, has now lodged an appeal against the acquittal of Weinhold.

A report circulated by the AP news agency on 2 December 1976 states that Weinhold can count upon a substantial "indemnity" at the expense of the West German taxpayer for having been detained. According to one of his attorneys this should be calculated on the basis of a "loss of earnings" amounting to M 1,500 per month.

**(ADN report, Neues Deutschland, 3 December 1976)**

## **Indignation in the GDR and internationally on the scandalous acquittal of double murderer Weinhold**

The scandalous acquittal of the murderer Weinhold has released a storm of burning indignation both in the GDR and abroad. We publish this selection from a large number of statements:

**Bernhard Wolf**  
**Machine operator, Leipzig**

The sentence passed is a verdict on class justice in the Federal Republic. To acquit and award damages to a man guilty of double murder is to give carte blanche to all those engaged in border provocations and human trafficking. As a worker I know what to think of a state ridden by neo-Nazis and applauding incorrigible fascists like Rudel (the highest-decorated officer in Hitler's Wehrmacht-trans.).

**Enito Wogatzki**  
**riter**

scoundrel devoid of all human feeling shot his way through a  
ntier which has helped to safeguard peace for more than  
years now in the best interests of all of Europe and what  
ppened? He was afforded protection by a court of law and was  
quitted.

This admits of only one interpretation, which is highly alarming  
deed.

The murder or even double murder of young socialists is no  
nger a punishable offence. The West German mass media are  
y busy at the moment driving this point home in the most  
ameless fashion. They stress that one of the two German states  
parated by this frontier is a socialist state. Here we have the  
ason for the acquittal. Regardless of whether they put it very  
idely or in more subtle terms—the message is this: Socialists  
d communists who are standing in the way are fair game for  
yone and they may be killed, even from behind, at no risk.  
parently, it is to be made abundantly clear that nothing has  
anged since the murder of Liebknecht and Luxemburg. And  
re is something else we are to know: It is the Final Act of the  
elsinki Conference that has come under fire. A whole magazine  
emptied firing at the accords under which this frontier is to be  
eguarded as a European frontier of peace.

We know that whenever human rights were trampled under-  
it in this way there was a danger of the noblest ideals being  
ugged through the mud. We should counter this cynicism by  
ngthening our own state, which is built on human values.

**Prof. Heinrich Scheel**  
**Vice-president, GDR Academy of Science**

An individual with a number of previous convictions stood at the bar of a court in the Federal Republic of Germany which firstly arrogated unto itself a jurisdiction in conflict with all norms of international law, secondly treated this individual as a gentleman of honour and thirdly degraded itself to the level of an accomplice of a murderer.

The FRG judiciary has already confronted the world with many cases evoking the indignation of all civilized people and in this connection I think of the treatment of convicted war criminals. However, what has now occurred at Essen exceeds everything one has already experienced by way of scandalous verdicts. The judgement handed down by Judge Beringer is not only a miscarriage of justice, it is an untarnished call for murder.

**Prof. Reinhard Barke, M. D.**  
**Director, Radiological Department, Dresden Medical School**

Such a verdict would have been impossible in a democratic state. That a man proved guilty of double murder has been acquitted on the grounds that those murdered were soldiers of a socialist state is reminiscent of legal practices common only under fascism. It evokes memories of personal experiences I had with the fascist judiciary and Nazi judges.



**1 Lange**

**er of Jürgen Lange, one of the murdered border guards**

r wounds, scarcely scarred over, have been reopened. How  
e It is for our whole family to know that the murderer of  
n has been acquitted and, worse still, offered flowers after-  
. I simply cannot understand all that. These revanchists  
our border guards as fair game, simultaneously inciting  
to murder and manslaughter. What a detestable and vile  
in which such things happen.

**Peter Alfons Steiniger**

**President, GDR Society for International Law**

ting out the "reasons" for the scandalous acquittal of the  
erer Weinhold the presiding judge of the Essen court de-  
d—as reported in the press—that West German criminal law  
ot exist for the purpose of sowing respect for the frontier  
en the GDR and the Federal Republic. The verdict itself  
d down to a justification of murderous onslaughts on mem-  
of the GDR's frontier force. This shows how necessary it is,  
Interests of the preservation of peace, to ensure the effec-  
rotection of the frontier with such a state and provides proof  
nternational law has been violated in a variety of ways. What  
e faced with here is the systematic denial of basic principles  
ciated in the United Nations Charter in a form binding upon  
ates, confirmed in the General Relations Treaty signed be-  
the German Democratic Republic and the Federal Repub-  
Germany on 21 December 1971 and reaffirmed in the Final

Act of the Helsinki Conference signed by the leaders of 35 countries. All these documents proceed from respect for the sovereignty and equality of all states, especially their frontiers, both in general terms and with respect to the state border separating the GDR and the Federal Republic. The matter in hand is not just a gap of an individual court of law. It is common knowledge that the supreme political court in the Federal Republic, the Federal Constitutional Court in Karlsruhe, set the tone in July 1973 when it had the temerity to maintain that the frontier between the German Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany was "similar" to those existing between the Länder or provinces of the Federal Republic and that it could "therefore not enjoy protection under International law".

**Rev. Erich Arndt**  
**Bützow, Schwerin county**

As citizen of the German Democratic Republic I am filled with disgust at a criminal who has murdered two members of our frontier force in a dastardly fashion. Righteous anger is welling in my heart because the Federal Republic of Germany is aiding and abetting a murderer. The killer must be brought before a court in the German Democratic Republic.

But it is also as a Christian that I wish to raise my voice. It is well known that forgiveness is one of the precepts of our faith. But a murder remains a murder, and we take the 5th commandment very seriously. My protest is all the more emphatic as the murderer has been acquitted in a state which misses no opportunity to describe itself as Christian.

**Jonja Kehler**  
**Singer and actress**

Reportedly, a hero of the western world, murderer of two border guards of the GDR, has stuck his chest out before the cameras of West German television, and he has been loudly cheered. But we know that there are many people in the Federal Republic who feel ashamed at this miscarriage of justice deliberately organized by a court which lacks any jurisdiction in the Weinhold case. We have learned that the public prosecutor has lodged an appeal with the Federal Court. But it is certainly not necessary to wait for the outcome of the appellate proceedings to find out which class administers justice in the Federal Republic of Germany. All we can do at the moment is to raise a public outcry against this ravesty of justice, to protest as vigorously and loudly as possible.

**Dr. Gustav Jahn**  
**Justice at the Halle County Court**

The acquittal of the double murderer Weinhold by an Essen court is one of the biggest judicial scandals in the history of bourgeois class justice. It is not only that the court aids and abets a repeatedly convicted criminal who has killed two people in an insidious and savage manner but calls on others to do the same provided such action is directed against the GDR. I can only describe these judges as instigators of crime who are devoid of all scruples, as people who by passing this sentence have lost the right to call themselves members of the legal profession. There is a direct route leading from Hitler's judicial terror to the ban on

the Communist Party of Germany (KPD) and the acquittal of Weinhold. How can these judges have the effrontery to pass judgment in the name of the people in the Federal Republic of Germany?

### **GDR Committee on Human Rights**

"With its verdict the FRG court unscrupulously ignored the prohibition of interference in internal affairs binding in international law. At the same time it trod on fundamental human rights. The judges had the audacity to make the grotesque assertion that freedom of movement between sovereign states of differing social orders simultaneously justifies freedom to murder. This perversion of human rights is at the same time a grave attack upon the Human Rights Conventions adopted by the UN in 1966, adherence to which was also pledged by the FRG contractually.

"The fact that a court of law in the FRG declares its solidarity with felons is not unusual. Numerous acquittals of fascist war criminals and those guilty of crimes against humanity prove that the seeds of militant revanchism and blind anti-communism sown by Nazi hanging judges continue to exist."

## ing criticism oreign newspapers

### re Zeit, Düsseldorf

newspaper of the German Communist Party (DKP) commented:

the decision of an Essen court to acquit the double murderer Weinhold at the taxpayer's expense is a blank cheque for violent criminals. Weinhold who, according to investigations conducted in the GDR, has shot two GDR border guards from behind, had allegedly acted in self-defence or so the Essen court wants to make us believe. How cynically double standards are applied can be seen from the fact that the authorities in this country intend to crack down on air piracy and the taking of hostages. In reality are playing a double game. While hi-jackings are publicly denounced at the United Nations, the criminal Becvar is being extradited to Czechoslovakia. The Weinhold affair is another case of a murderer not being extradited. The explanation originally given in Bonn was that he was to face trial in court. He now not only goes scot-free but is also awarded an amnesty for the time spent in detention. It follows from this that Weinhold is not a murderer but an 'honourable man' and a 'com fighter'. We can see here how law and justice are

being perverted against a background of anti-communist hysteria. The verdict handed down is a disgrace for our country."

### **Land of Folk, Copenhagen**

Under the heading "Scandalous sentence in West Germany" the Danish paper emphasizes "that the Essen court has refused to recognize the evidence presented by the GDR. The acquitted drew frenetic cheers from anti-communists driven to frenzy by the West German press and its glamorization of the criminal Weinhold."

### **Tagesanzeiger, Zurich**

"Observers at the trial have noted that both the court and the prosecution have hardly lifted a finger to clear up the case. Major contradictions in Weinhold's testimony have not been examined. Under these circumstances the defence counsel found it easy to raise doubts in Weinhold's favour."

### **Unità, Rome**

The organ of the Italian Communist Party pointed out that this sentence was passed although the murderer had organized his crime—in the words of the prosecutor—in the style of a military operation.

### **La Stampa, Turin**

The newspaper stressed that the double murderer was "released immediately" and that the Federal Republic would "pay an indemnity for the eleven months spent in detention awaiting trial".

### **ns Nyheter, Stockholm**

Swedish newspaper wrote it had been fully proved that  
old had shot the two border guards. In connection with  
acquittal the paper speaks of a "permission to shoot".

### **Wahrheit, West Berlin**

Organ of the executive of the Socialist Unity Party of West  
wrote this about the acquittal: "Seldom has there been  
sentence in which the principles of international law were  
flouted and distorted to such an extent... What we  
witness here is the virtual sanctioning by a court of law of provoca-  
against socialist countries. This puts a severe strain on  
ful coexistence and the spirit of Helsinki."

### **Response by West German bourgeois newspapers**

Credible verdict of the court has been received with mixed  
opinions in the bourgeois press. Part of the newspapers extol the  
accused as a "hero" and "freedom fighter". Others take a more  
balanced and detached stance, warning against "unforeseeable  
consequences" of the Essen court's sentence. They say it is "more  
disturbing" if a court clearly committed to revanchist con-  
fession declares that criminal attacks and violent provocations  
at the GDR's state border are not considered punishable  
crimes in the Federal Republic.

West German observers at the trial speak of "serious short-  
comings" in the conduct of the proceedings. They say that this  
case has been rushed in some sort of "summary pro-  
ceedings". Weinhold was interrogated for only one hour and the  
presentation of the evidence lasted no more than a day. Here  
are some comments:

### **Frankfurter Rundschau**

Weinhold could get away with it only "because the court advanced arguments that rested on weak premises. The judges in Essen seem to have sensed the incredible implications of their fundamental attitude towards the other German state." The paper adds that their juridical constructions were "no paragons of logic but rather signs of uncertainty" and that "no one could imagine English or French judges returning a similar verdict".

### **Rheinische Post, Düsseldorf**

"The presiding judge who had once before released the accused during the pre-trial proceedings and the public prosecutor who seemed to take scant interest in the matter entrusted to him obviously had set narrow limits on their obligation to clear up the case. The result was that contradictions remained unsolved and questions unanswered because they were not even raised."

### **Westdeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung, Düsseldorf**

The paper writes that the court has "passed a controversial sentence and that the juridical and political problems involved will continue to be a matter of public debate for a long time".

### **Stuttgarter Zeitung**

"The verdict pronounced at Essen is the most unsatisfying the chronicler has to record in a period of 25 years spent professionally in (west)Germany court-rooms. The unusual reasons given for the verdicts are on the increase."



**exures**

**r addressed by the Prosecutor General of the GDR  
e Federal Minister of Justice of the Federal Republic  
1 December 1975**

**Berlin, 21 December 1975**

**ederal Minister of Justice,**

**Sir,**

**I on the attached warrant of arrest issued by the district  
at Hildburghausen on 20 December 1975 in the criminal  
against the citizen of the German Democratic Republic  
rner Weinhold,**

**n 8 August 1949 at Dresden,**

**: resident at**

**iefelder Strasse 45, Dresden,**

**est the extradition of the fugitive accused.**

**inhold, against whom a number of previous convictions are  
led, is strongly suspected of again having committed a  
er of criminal acts on the territory of the German Democratic  
olic during September and December 1975. In order to evade**

responsibility for his criminal acts by escaping to the Federal Republic of Germany, he committed premeditated murder against two members of the GDR's frontier force,

Klaus-Peter Seidel and

Jürgen Lange,

while they were on duty at Hildburghausen, Suhl county, by firing a number of shots from a submachinegun, make Kalashnikov, at 2.15 a.m. on Friday, 19 December 1975.

I request you to place Weinhold under arrest and to notify me of the time and place the accused and the weapon will be handed over.

Very respectfully yours  
Dr. Streit

Enclosures:

Warrant of arrest

Copy of a photograph of Weinhold

Copy of Weinhold's fingerprints

Physical description of Weinhold

**addressed by the Prosecutor General of the GDR  
Federal Minister of Justice of the Federal Republic  
January 1976**

**23 January 1976**

**Federal Minister of Justice,**

**Sir,**

**reference to the criminal case against the citizen of the  
German Democratic Republic**

**Erwin Weinhold,**

**born 18 August 1949 at Dresden,**

**resident at Rehefelder Strasse 45,**

**Dresden,**

**has been informed by the Prosecutor General at Hamm in a  
letter dated 8 January 1976 that the accused Weinhold was  
placed into custody at Marl on 22 December 1975.**

**In this connection I refer to my request for his extradition dated  
December 1975 and now anticipate that the place and time  
for handing over the accused and the weapon will be made  
known to me at the earliest possible moment.**

**I now wish to inform you that Weinhold has been sentenced  
to imprisonment on four occasions in the German Democratic  
Republic since 1966, inter alia for the continual unauthorized  
use of motor vehicles and continual theft of public and personal  
property. The last time he was convicted was on 27 February 1972  
when he was sentenced to two years in prison for the un-  
authorized use of motor vehicles and theft of personal property.  
In December 1972 the accused was prematurely released from  
prison after having been bound over for three years. Preliminary**

proceedings were again instituted against Weinhold as a result of a criminal act he committed in terms of section 124 of the Criminal Code of the German Democratic Republic in September 1975. I do however wish to stress that my request for his extradition dated 21 December 1975 refers expressly to the premeditated murders he committed on 19 December 1975 at approximately 2.15 a.m. in the district of Hildburghausen, county of Suhl, against two members of the frontier force of the German Democratic Republic, i.e. Klaus-Peter Seidel and Jürgen Lange, while they were on duty.

I attach death certificates issued by the Hildburghausen district council.

Very respectfully yours  
Dr. Streit

Enclosures

**the reports submitted  
e Department of Forensic Medicine of  
riedrich Schiller University of Jena**

Following are extracts from the 17-page post-mortem examination report:

The post-mortem examination of Jürgen Lange and Klaus-Peter Seldel was conducted in Hildburghausen on 19 December 1975 in the presence of Public Prosecutor Lippold by Dr. Disse, senior medical officer, as the chief examiner, and Dr. Zitzmann as his assistant, both from the Jena Institute of Forensic Medicine.

The findings were as follows:

According to the evidence in hand the two members of the frontier force, Jürgen Lange and Klaus-Peter Seldel, were killed by a person armed with a submachinegun at 2.15 a.m. on 18 December 1975."

**the report concerning Jürgen Lange**

Post-mortem result:

Seventeen gunshot wounds sustained in the face, nape of the head, trunk and upper extremities. Rupture of the liver and of the

medium lobule of the right lung with subsequent abundant bleeding in the body cavities. Injury to the duodenum and to the right half of the diaphragm. Injury to the retrolingual region and to the floor of the mouth. Gunshot fracture of the submaxilla and of the left index. Accumulation of blood in the buccal cavity, oesophagus, larynx, windpipe and bronchi. Clear signs of blood inhaled into both lungs. General blood deficiency of internal organs.

**Cause of death:**

Internal bleeding caused by bullets passing through the liver and the lungs.

The post-mortem examination showed 14 gunshot wounds caused by no less than 6 and no more than 7 projectiles.

The main points of entry were found to be in the rear of the body and of the extremities.

The diameter of the bullet holes suggests a calibre of 7.62 millimetres.

There was no evidence such as powder staining suggesting that shots were fired at close range.

The nape of the neck was grazed by a projectile.

The injury to the index was caused by a projectile passing through the finger, the examination failing to show whether the projectile had previously gone through other parts of the body.

The fatal injury was caused by shot No. 5 which led to the rupture of the liver and the right lung with subsequent abundant bleeding in the pleural and abdominal cavities.

## **m the report concerning Klaus-Peter Seidel**

### **Post-mortem result:**

**Eight gunshot wounds sustained in the trunk and upper extremities as well as several injuries to the right hand due to metal fragments. Rupture of the lower lobe of the left lung with consequent abundant bleeding in the left part of the pleura. Rupture of the left half of the diaphragm, spleen and left kidney.**

**Injuries the size of a small coin in the duodenum and stomach. Accumulation of blood in the abdominal cavity. Gun-fracture of the 8th, 11th and 12th ribs, left side. General blood deficiency of internal organs.**

### **Cause of death:**

**Internal bleeding caused by gunshot injury to the left lung, kidney and spleen.**

**The post-mortem examination showed eight gunshot wounds and several injuries due to fragments of projectiles.**

**The eight gunshot wounds were caused by three projectiles.**

**The points of entry were found to be on the ventral side of the trunk. The diameter of the bullet holes suggests a calibre of 7.62 millimetres.**

**There was no evidence such as powder staining suggesting the shots were fired at close range.**

**Fatal injuries were caused by shots no. 1 and 2.**

**These shots resulted in lesions of the lung, spleen, kidney, stomach, and intestine.**

**Disse, senior medical officer**

**Lied: Prof. Christiane Kerde, M.D., Director,**

**Institute of Forensic Medicine**

**Frankfurt, Goetheallee 23**

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## First-hand Information



